



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/035,127	01/04/2002	Roger Yu	YURO3002	3102
23364	7590	12/14/2004	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			COURTENAY III, ST JOHN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2126	

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/035,127

Applicant(s)

YU, ROGER

Examiner

St. John Courtenay III

Art Unit

2126

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2002.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.


Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


ST. JOHN COURTENAY III
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

(1) The specification is objected to as not being in proper idiomatic English form:

- e.g., "almost everyone in the world are logging in the Internet" (page 1, line 24)

Suggested correction: "almost everyone in the world logs onto the Internet"

- e.g., "In order to prevent the hacker to rewrite the content of the electronic erasable memory ..." (page 6, line 2)

Suggested correction: "In order to prevent the hacker from rewriting the contents of the electronic erasable memory ..."

- e.g., "Even a user who wants to repartition the hard disk drive, reinstall or update the Windows operating system, the user must open the computer casing to set the jumper for the write disable pin 70." (page 6, line 11)

Suggested correction:

"A user who wants to repartition the hard disk drive, reinstall or update the Windows operating system must open the computer casing to set the jumper for the write disable pin 70."

- e.g., "The present invention meets the requirements of patentability, which is hereby submitted for patent publication." (page 11, lines 8-10).

Suggested correction:

It is suggested that lines 8-10 on page 11 be deleted.

Application/Control Number:
10/035,127
Art Unit: 2126

Page 3

The above examples are merely exemplary – numerous grammatical errors are present in the specification. Applicant should review the entire specification and make appropriate corrections that are consistent with the rules of proper English grammar.

A substitute specification in proper idiomatic English and in compliance with **37 CFR 1.52(a)** and (b) is required. The substitute specification filed must be accompanied by a statement that it contains no new matter.

37 CFR 1.125(a) applies to a substitute specification required by the Office. If the number or nature of the amendments or the legibility of the application papers renders it difficult to consider the application, or to arrange the papers for printing or copying, the Office may require the entire specification, including the claims, or any part thereof be rewritten.

Appropriate correction is required.

(2) Claims 1-7 are not in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph:

35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of **35 U.S.C. 112**:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under **35 U.S.C. 112**, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Application/Control Number:
10/035,127
Art Unit: 2126

Page 4

Indefinite Claim Language:

Claim 1, line 1: "mainly dividing" – is indefinite. The Examiner suggests deleting the word "mainly".

Claim 1, line 7: "and requested to confirm" – is indefinite because it is unclear who performs the confirmation.

Claim 1, line 17: "in the meantime" is indefinite.

Claim 2, line 2: "may further have a write protection measure" is indefinite, because it is unclear whether the limitation (i.e., the write protection measure) is part of the invention.

Appropriate correction is required.

Objection to the claims:

The Examiner objects to claims 1-7 as being awkward and unclear (presumably a result of the Chinese translation) and suggests the following alternative language for claims 1-7:

See the next page for suggested changes to the claim language to obviate the above rejections/objections to the claims.

Independent Claim 1:

A computer firewall system that divides a hard disk drive into a plurality of partitions, wherein the location of each partition is recorded as location data, comprising:

- a write-once partition that becomes read-only after being written once, thereafter any attempt to write to said write-once partition invokes program code that warns a user and prompts said user to confirm a write-warning partition and a freely-accessed partition;
- a partition-area comparator that compares said location data when a system program accesses said plurality of partitions, whereby, upon determining that said system program has attempted to access said write-once partition, said partition-area comparator disables a write-in signal of said hard disk drive and generates an interrupt signal operatively coupled to a firmware device that alerts said user by audio or video; and,
- said partition-area comparator, upon determining that the accessed partition is said write-warning partition, invokes program code that prompts said user to input a password for confirmation, and generates said interrupt signal operatively coupled to said firmware device that alerts said user by audio or video, or else said computer firewall system refuses to write data to said write-warning partition; and,
- said partition-area comparator, upon determining that the accessed partition is said freely-accessed partition area, permits the free access of data to and from said freely-accessed partition area.

Dependent Claim 2:

The computer firewall system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said location data is protected by a write protect measure.

Dependent Claim 3:

The computer firewall system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said write protect measure is implemented by a write protect pin added to the exterior of a recording device used to record said location data.

Dependent Claim 4:

The computer firewall system as claimed in claims 1, 2, or 3, wherein said location data is recorded by a storage device selected from an electronic erasable memory, a flash memory, and a programmable logic array.

Dependent Claim 5:

The computer firewall system as claimed in claims 1, 2, or 3, wherein said location data is recorded into a BIOS, and said BIOS has a BIOS write protect function to protect against rewrite by an unauthorized person.

Dependent Claim 6:

The computer firewall system as claimed in claims 1, 2, or 3, wherein said interrupt signal is converted into a DMA signal, and a firmware program contained in said firmware device is stored in the DMA memory handler so that it can be used for an IDE or SCSI hard disk drive interface.

Dependent Claim 7:

The computer firewall system as claimed in claims 1, 2, or 3, wherein program code associated with said computer firewall system is stored in either a hard disk controller or in a circuit within said hard disk drive having said recording device for recording said location data.

Application/Control Number:
10/035,127
Art Unit: 2126

Page 7

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Subject to the results of a final search, the prior art of record does not teach nor fairly suggest a computer firewall that divides the hard drive space into three dedicated partition areas: a write-once partition, a write-warning partition, and a freely-accessed partition, the three dedicated partition areas operatively coupled to a partition area comparator and associated user-warning and user-prompting programs, as claimed.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Prior Art not relied upon:

Please refer to the references listed on the attached PTO-892 which are not relied upon in the claim rejections detailed above.

Application/Control Number:
10/035,127
Art Unit: 2126

Page 8

How to Contact the Examiner:

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to St. John Courtenay III, whose telephone number is 571-272-3761. A voice mail service is also available at this number. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, An Meng-AI who can be reached on 571-272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

All responses sent by U.S. Mail should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Patent Customers advised to FAX communications to the USPTO

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/faxnotice.pdf>

Effective Oct. 15, 2003, ALL patent application correspondence transmitted by FAX must be directed to the new PTO central FAX number:

**NEW PTO CENTRAL FAX NUMBER:
703-872-9306**

Application/Control Number:
10/035,127
Art Unit: 2126

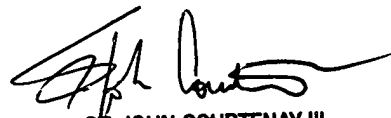
Page 9

-
- Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the **TC 2100 Group receptionist: (703) 305-3900.**

Please direct inquiries regarding fees, paper matching, and other issues not involving the Examiner to:

Technical Center 2100 CUSTOMER SERVICE: 703 306-5631

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) is available online at:
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/index.html>


ST. JOHN COURTENAY III
PRIMARY EXAMINER